

The Scranton Tribune

Tidy and Weekly. No Sunday Edition.

Published at Scranton, Pa., by The Tribune Publishing Company.

New York Representative:
FRANK S. GRAY CO.
Room 45, Tribune Building, New York City.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS
SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, APRIL 1, 1897.

To insure publication in this paper, volunteered communications of a controversial character MUST BE SIGNED FOR PUBLICATION BY the writer's true name. To this just rule we cannot hereafter make exception.

Our Filthy Streets.

The terrible condition of Scranton's streets is one of the most emphatic evidences of the lack of system and order in the government of this city. The anathemas breathed out against the heads of the street commissioner's department yesterday by persons who were obliged to face the clouds of dust that incessantly floated from one end of the city to the other, fanned by the breezes of departing March, were of the earnest character that should have made an impression upon the officials who are responsible for this state of affairs could they have been heard. Dust, dirt everywhere. Sifting through cracks and crevices or in open doors and windows. While statesmen have wrestled with the problem of getting rid of an obnoxious official it seems the filth has accumulated on our thoroughfares to an almost incredible degree as the days of early springtime have been creeping on apace. The high city officials deliberate; the heads of the street cleaning department draw their salaries and the taxpayers swallow the dust and their pent up wrath as best they may.

It seems about time for the responsibility for this disgraceful condition of affairs to be fixed upon some one; even if a popular uprising of the people is necessary to accomplish the results. There is absolutely no excuse for the dirty streets that confront us today, and it is time that reform that begins with a big R was inaugurated in this direction.

The respect that Spain exhibits for the McKinley administration is almost as aggravating to the average Democratic calamity howler as the various items of the Dingley bill.

The Oleomargarine Law.

The oleomargarine investigation at Pittsburgh has developed several things, according to exchanges. The Pittsburgh Dispatch disposes of the measure, which is of such vast importance to the farming interests of the state, as follows:

Whatever comes out of the oleomargarine investigation when pursued to its end, it will be a clear victory for practically the whole people of the state in the conspiracy to violate the law in the case. Not one of them has long known that oleomargarine was sold in immense quantities; not one of them but could have known that he was himself buying it, and how little actually knew him to be bought and estimated. The law has failed to accomplish what was intended, for it has not excluded oleomargarine from the leading markets; it remains to be shown that it is the farmer worth the paper it is printed on, and that it can ever be made worth more to the farmer than the cost of the expense of sending litigation and a little moralization. There are laws against which a bad class are a unit, and they ought to be maintained whether fully effective or not; but against this oleomargarine law thousands of decent people are a unit, and cannot be made to understand their opposition as in any wise improper. This is the reason why the law is prohibited, and so far as can be seen, they will continue to do so. The law is doing constant harm, and no good in any way.

In the neighborhood in which the Dispatch circulates it may be possible that the mysterious compounds of hog fat, axle grease, cotton seed, tallow, soap grease, etc., that are sold under the euphonious name of oleomargarine, are preferred to genuine butter. But it is doubtful if the citizens of the state generally are in a conspiracy to promote the sale of the stuff. If the supposed oleomargarine was always sold as oleomargarine properly stamped it is not likely that there would be objections to its sale on part of dairymen who can under proper arrangements compete with the finest chemical butter that has been placed on the markets. It is the system of deception that has been practiced so extensively in the past that the oleomargarine law was aimed at. No one disputes that beef tallow may be healthy under certain conditions and may agree with Pittsburgh digestion; but it has been shown that many other ingredients often enter into the manufacture of the so-called "oleo" that are not conducive to good health. Of course those who desire to subsist upon oleomargarine should be allowed the opportunity, but those who do not should be protected against the machinations of the adulterated food fluid.

If Grover Cleveland does not get "cured" by some pictorial patent medicine soon he will drop out of sight altogether.

About Good Roads.

The local agitation for good roads is likely to be productive of much good in this part of the state. To start with there is a fruitful field of endeavor, one of the most fruitful in Pennsylvania perhaps. It is generally conceded that the roads leading into Scranton and adjacent to it are about as bad as they can be and any kind of improvement will be most welcome.

In some of the farming districts of this region there are fairly good roads though none of them are up to the standard that might be attained by a more attention to road building on scientific principles. For the last month those who have been compelled to drive over the roads in this part of the state have had nothing but the most sweeping condemnation to pronounce upon them. That better roads are coming is certain. A move in that direction was the step recently taken by the supervisors of Lackawanna township in deciding to macadamize a mile of township road leading through Minooka from the city line south.

The road at present is something to be dreaded by travelers quite as much as North Main avenue and Providence roads have obligations to the public, and

should be forced to keep them. On the other hand, they have rights, and they should be protected in them. We believe that all important interest expected with the development of the United States will be best served by allowing them to rest under the play of natural developments. There is no doubt, however, that the effect of this decision was for a time to alarm speculative holders of railway securities. We do not think there has been any real liquidation on the part of the general public to realize that even the judicial branch of the United States government has come to interfere with the natural conditions of trade.

The prompt manner in which the tariff bill was disposed of in the national house of representatives yesterday is most encouraging to those who are interested in better times that will follow. It now remains for the senate to ratify the good work of the house, that the present feeling of confidence may be strengthened and reviving industries may take on added vigor as the nation enters upon another era of prosperity.

The urchin who was a model for "Little Lord Fauntleroy," has grown up and expects to cause more trouble than the author of a comic opera.

Greeks may not be able single handed to whip the sky powers, but she will make them blushing for having taken a stand against Christianity.

Japan has adopted a monetary standard of 32 to 1. And William Jennings Bryan talks on.

The groundhog has been vindicated.

Shall We Annex Hawaii?

From the Washington Post.

That congress should take speedy action in the matter of Hawaii, will hardly be questioned by any one. The relations between the two countries are in a state of confusion that calls loudly for adjustment and arbitration. The people of the Union have been asked to admit the Union to a territory, and both our interests and our sympathies second the petition. At the least congress should say yes on no without further delay. To leave things as they are will be injurious and unjust to the United States, as well as to the people of Hawaii.

The existing condition of affairs has been, up to this time, unavoidable. Mr. Cleveland had not been in the white house three days, four years ago, when he appointed Mr. Blount a special commissioner to go to Hawaii, practically superseding the United States minister. Honolulu, and not openly at least in secret, encouraged the revolutionists, and gave encouragement and comfort to the dethroned Queen. The government was then in the hands of President Dole and his compatriots; there was a capital in which law and order prevailed; the republicans were in power, and the queen was out of the islands. Yet Mr. Cleveland distinctly withheld his countenance from the representatives of free institutions, and as distinctly exhibited his sympathy with the futile and foolish and discredited monarchy. Of course, it was not to be expected that, during his administration, anything would be done to protect free speech and free travel. The matter of fact no one did expect it and no one was disappointed. But, now that we have another, and as we all believe, a more patriotic and more enlightened dispensation, it seems reasonable to hope that a different policy will be adopted.

There are scores of reasons why the United States should move promptly and vigorously in this matter. The existing arrangement is thoroughly unsatisfactory. Our international relations are unsettled, not to say irksome. In one direction we are granting to Hawaii certain privileges and immunities in the matter of trade which should be granted to no foreign nation. The system of Hawaiian sugar from tariff dues is unfair to our domestic producers, and it constitutes a loss of revenue which we cannot afford to incur. On the other hand, unless it be proposed to perpetuate Mr. Cleveland's policy of ignoring the advantages involved in the separation of Hawaii from the rest of the world, it would be a wise and patriotic policy on our part, with due regard to the great disadvantage of the latter, to be improved in the extreme. The American people will not tolerate an arrangement so illogical and so mischievous. Hawaii should be annexed, or else it should be treated as a foreign nation. We say annex it, and we believe that public sentiment throughout the country will impose the sentiment.

STAND BY THE GOVERNOR.

From the Philadelphia Times.

The committee on building and grounds of the house have only half consented to the governor's plan for the erection of a separate legislative building, but they want to spend a million dollars on it and do it all at once. The governor wants a building erected at a cost not exceeding \$50,000, with such temporary features as will enable the legislature to occupy the building in part body the expense of decorating and furnishing permanently, and thus giving the state four years instead of two to provide the cost of erecting and completing the new capitol.

The governor's plan is better for several reasons. First, it will save the cost of the cost of building one plan the committee is willing to accept and his estimate of the amount of money required is not a mere guess. There is little enough time left in which to erect the building before it is needed, and if the decoration and furnishing are crowded into the same work, it will be difficult and substantial. The building will be a better one if four years are allowed for its completion than it can possibly be if the entire work is crowded into the year and a half that will elapse before the next legislature will meet.

The committees having accepted one-half of the governor's plan should adopt it in toto, and if the committee remain unconvinced the legislature should concur anyway. His plan is in the interest of a substantial and well finished building and will lighten the burden of the taxpayers, both county and state. In making out the estimate of the cost of the new building, the legislature will also accord with public opinion, something it is worth even for legislators to heed.

GREATER THAN THE MAN.
From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

When General Sherman was shot it was generally proclaimed by the Spanish authorities in Cuba that the insurrection had reached its end. It was their view that the Cubans could not survive the loss of their intrepid chief. The blow was severe, and for a time a feeling of despondency hung over the patriots' camp. But it was not long, conscious of the fact that their cause was greater than

any man, they took fresh courage and to the desire for freedom added the motive of revenge. Their successors since that time have been many.

The fall of General Rivera has stirred precisely the same kind of an enthusiasm among the Spaniards. His fate is evidently sealed. Whether or not he is court-martialed and shot, as the latest dispatches say is certain, or is cast into some loathsome prison, the insurgents have lost his services. Hence the Cuban cause is jubilant and the Cubans cast down.

But again, it will not be for long. Another leader will rise to take Rivera's place. The cause is still greater than the man.

From the Galveston News.

In spite of a continuous multiplication of courts and authorities we have gone from 1,118 murders in 1885 to 1,600 murders in 1896. The police forces have contributed to this alarming increase by delaying justice and by methodically neglecting to protect the citizen who depended upon the law. And this is not all. Many a criminal has been given his liberty as a price in campaign funds, and the influence of his friends. Many a candidate has been elected to office under the expectation of his considerate forbearance toward certain classes in their regular business of violating the law.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Livy S. Richard and W. W. Davis, of Scranton, are staying at the Continental hotel. Mr. Richard is the editor of the Scranton Tribune and Mr. Davis is the general manager of that journal, one of the most prosperous of the several influential newspapers of Lackawanna's thriving capital.

CONSTANTLY GROWING.

From the Dunmore Pioneer.
The Tribune has many friends in this borough, and is constantly growing in popularity.

ALL FOOL'S DAY PRAYER.

Oh! keep my feet throughout this day
In wisdom's holy path,
That at its close the sun may not
Go down upon my wrath;
And if a friend would have me "bite,"
Let me keep calm and cool,
And straightforward have the joke on him
By shouting "April Fool!"

Let me "go slow" at breakfast time,
O Fate! be merciful,
And let my teeth not crash into
The waffle stuffed with wool!
And, Oh! preserve me, angels dear,
From that most dangerous shawl
In the cup of coffee "fix'd" with salt
That fills the sugar bowl.

If I see money in the street
(A thing so wondrous rare!)
Oh! give me help to pass it by
With nose stuck high in air!
And if I should espy the hat
That hides the "ha ha" trick,
Oh! let me save for something else
My well-developed kick!

If some one bids me upward look,
Then let me downward gaze,
And at the wildest piece of news
My eyebrows never raise;
Keep me from these and other tricks
As silly and absurd,
And save, Oh! save me from the "josh"
Of which I've never heard!

—Winthrop Gray, in Puck.



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